common people and the Public Distribution System; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to control and check the rise in the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The Central issue price (ex-FCI godown) of wheat and rice have been increased w.e.f. 1-2-1994 to partially absorb the increase in the Procurement prices of wheat and paddy paid to farmers during 1993-94 rabi/kharif marketing seasons and consequential increase in the procurement cost.

The retail issue prices of levy sugar has been increased w.e.f. 1-2-1994 on account of increases in the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for 1993-94 sugar season and conversion/distribution cost.

(b) and (c) The prices of essential commodities are under periodical review of Government, Committee of Secretaries and the recently constituted Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Monitoring the prices under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Pubic Distribution.

(d) The Central issue prices for Public Distribution System (ex-FCI godown) for wheat has been increased from Rs. 330 to 402 per quintal and that of rice from Rs. 437 to Rs. 537 per quintal for common, Rs. 497 to Rs. 617 per quintal for fine and Rs. 518 to Rs. 648 per quintal for superfine varieties with effect from 1-2-1994.

The retail levy sugar price has been raised from Rs. 8.30 to Rs. 9.05 per Kg. with effect from 1-2-1994.

(e) In order to keep the open market prices of wheat and rice within reasonable limit, the Food Corporation of India have undertaken open market sale of wheat and rice form the Central Pool. This has had a sobering effect on the prices of these commodities.

States Contribution of Rice and Wheat to Central Pool

1598. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) whether the States contribute to the Central Pool for building buffer stocks of Rice and Wheat;

(b) what is the contribution of these States in the years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, and 1993-94 (upto December);

(c) what is the contribution of Rice from Tamil Nadu to the Central Pool in these years; and

(d) whether it is mandatory or obligatory for the States to contribute the surplus grains in the respective State to the Central Pool ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) in collaboration with the State Governments State procuring agencies procure wheat and paddy for the Central Pool under prices support scheme at procurement price fixed by the Central Government. Apart from direct procurement of paddy, rice is collected for the Central Pool by way of statutory levy on rice millers and rice dealers. The percentage of levy is fixed by the State Governments taking into consideration the local conditions like production of paddy/ rice in the State, food habits of the local people, etc.

(b) Statement I and II are enclosed (*See* below).

(c) Tamil Nadu does not contribute Rice to Central Pool.

(d) As indicated above, the procurement of wheat is on voluntary basis. The collection of rice is, however, done under the statutory levy on rice millers and rice dealers.

Statement—I

Details regarding Quantities of Rice (Including Paddy in Terms of Rice, Procured for Central Pool during Kharif Marketing Seasons 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 *and* 1993-94 *(upto December,* 93)

(in '000 tonnes)

STATE/UNION TERRITORY	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (upto December, 1993)
Andhra Pradesh	3,335	2,262	3,296	1,225
Arunachal Pradesh	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	—
Assam	7	6	9	—
Bihar	—	—	—	1
Haryana	1,063	919	909	1,049
Karnataka	146	116	116	98
Madhya Pradesh	632	404	689	257
Maharashtra	23	53	70	37
Punjab	4,814	4,249	4,905	5,104
Orissa	214	266	380	116
Rajasthan	29	20	22	16
Uttar Pradesh	1,348	831	1,186	697
West Bengal	103	88	170	57
Chandigarh	21	24	30	17
Delhi	5	5	5	4
Pondicherry	5	5	6	1
TOTAL :	**11,745**	**9,240**	**11,793**	**8,679**

Neg. : Below 500 tonnes.

Statement—II

Details regarding Quantities of Wheat Procured for Central Pool during Rabi Marketing Seasons 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 *and* 1993-94 *(upto December,* 1993)

(in '000 tonnes)

State/Union Territory	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (upto December, 1993)
Gujarat	—	—	—	Neg. नग०
Haryana	2,595	1,834	1,372	3,454
Himachal Pradesh	1	—	—	1
Jammu & Kashmir	Neg. नग०	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	Neg. नग०	—	Neg. नग०	242
Punjab	6,749	5,543	4,489	6,493
Rajasthan	135	8	22	496
Uttar Pradesh	1,584	368	497	2,128
Chandigarh	2	—	—	Neg. नग०
Delhi	—	—	—	20
TOTAL :	11,066	7,753	6,380	12,834

Neg. : Below 500 tonnes.

Rationale Behind Rising Prices of Rice and Wheat Sold Through PDS

1599. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the rationale behind raising the prices of rice and wheat sold through Public Distribution System when the rise in procurement prices has been much less;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government owes Food Corporation of India a huge sum of Rs. 1,900 crores as arrears in subsidy payments and if so, what are the reasons for accumulating such huge arrears over the years, when the procurement prices were raised; and

(c) whether Government would consider working out a food subsidy rate directly linked with the GNP and ensure that this benefits the economically weaker sections of the Society ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALAP NATH RAI) : (a) The Central issue prices (ex-FCI godown) of wheat and rice are revised by the Government from time to time to partially absorb the increases in the Minimum Support Price/Procurement Price of wheat and paddy payable to farmers and consequential increase in their procurement cost. The Central issue prices of wheat and rice so fixed do not fully cover the economic cost of procured foodgrains.

(b) The arrear of Food subsidy payable to Food Corporation of India is over Rs. 1800 crores mainly due to delayed and inadequate revision of Central issue prices of foodgrains and consequential short provisioning in the Budget.

(c) Economically weaker sections of the Society are already covered under PDS and other welfare schemes viz. RPDS/ ITDP, etc. and are being benefitted by